

the community, he located his family in the middle of it, and then helped lead it.

Dick Cooley grew up in the midst of this dramatic change in the region. I had a connection being in an adjacent high school district, Centennial, next door to him. His high school alma mater was David Douglas, which was then the largest high school in the state of Oregon. It was then a symbol of excellence and Dick Cooley fit right in. It's where he developed the characteristics and skills that would serve him so well later in life. He was far more than a planner; he was a successful developer and builder who also had a career in banking and later, was in key business positions in the real estate arm of Pacific Power and Light, Pacific Development. This company took the audacious step of buying a huge tract of urban central city property known as the Lloyd district, well over 100 acres of opportunity that has continued to be a source of developmental activity, to be a key new district now blossoming within the central city. Dick Cooley was an investor who made strategic property purchases not just on the highest rate of return or the fastest rate of return, but working to put the pieces together to create long-term value.

It was this combination of the instincts of planner and an investor that made him a natural choice to follow in his father's footsteps to become a member of the Multnomah county planning commission.

I was pleased to appoint him to the Portland Planning Commission where he was an extraordinarily valuable leader in the important activities of the late 1980s and 1990s. He provided leadership not just as the chair of the planning commission, but understanding how to help people come together to create value. He played a vital role in helping shape and guide my Albina community plan, which was perhaps the high water mark in Portland's planning for people. This led to the revitalization of some of Portland's most troubled neighborhoods. Streets you wouldn't feel comfortable driving down then, you can now stroll with visitors to show Portland at its best. Dick was essential in bringing fellow planning commissioners, citizens and the city council together to make it happen.

Yet his planning, patience and investment strategies were most compelling when it came to people. It started with his circle of family and friends, especially his loving 20 year relationship with his wife Leslie. It was a joy to be around them both. No one worked harder at being a parent than my friend Dick, and his children, Sarah and Alex were never far from his thoughts.

Whether Dick was planning, being a father, husband, friend, he was always giving of himself. He never forgot that he was a kid from mid-Multnomah County, David Douglas High School, and he would return to his community roots time and time again. Most notably and recently, the countless hours he spent trying to assist his former neighbors contend with a community that is now fighting decline. He worked with them helping realize their vision for the gateway area, long after he left the planning commission.

He could not keep himself from providing leadership. He provided leadership until last year for the Portland street car, another Dick Cooley contribution to revitalizing our community and inspiring cities across America. Dick's values blended seamlessly. Friendship, family,

business, community; they were all part of a broader sense for the greater good. It is trite to say, but he was truly a unique human being. I've never seen anyone tie together those pieces the same way in such shy, quiet, unassuming fashion. He was smart as a whip and credentialed, but he didn't care about status and credentials, for himself or anyone else. He was still the kid from David Douglas, who just happened to be student body president, an athlete, an actor, a successful scholar who went off to Harvard. He didn't just wear this well, he disguised it. What he cared about was the human connection. If you knew Dick well, that was what you expected; you almost took it for granted. If you went on an early morning walk, he was the guy with the flashlight for you, maybe an extra bottle of water wondering if you're going to be late for your next appointment. He was always asking how you were. It was a detailed sort of checking in, about how you were really doing, your family, what you were thinking, who you were connected with.

His men's group was a critical part of who Dick was for two decades, but he wanted to share and understand that type of experience. He encouraged others to stake out their own circles to have the same connection. Dick will always be connected to us. Truly an extraordinary human being, who left us too soon, but who lived an amazingly rich and full life. We're all richer for that connection with him today, which continues every evening at 6:30 as his friends pause to remember Dick and what he meant to us all.

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JACOB BACK

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2014*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jacob Back for receiving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Jacob Back is a 9th grader at Standley Lake High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jacob Back is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jacob Back for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

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### RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF MOLLY K. MORRISON

### HON. JIM GERLACH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2014*

Mr. GERLACH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Molly K. Morrison on the occa-

sion of being honored with the Eighth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award by The Greystone Society of Coatesville, Chester County, Pennsylvania. As an outstanding candidate for this recognition, Molly was chosen for this honor for the same love of community she has as the award's namesake, Rebecca Lukens.

A Chester County native, Molly Morrison learned to appreciate the importance of land preservation by spending time on her grandparents' farm in northern Chester County, a place where her German immigrant ancestors had been farming since the early 1700s.

After pursuing an English degree at Ursinus College and Masters in Communications at Syracuse University, Molly worked at the Brandywine Valley Association and then for Chester County, where she served in a variety of positions over a 21-year period, most recently as Director of Policy and Planning. In that role, she oversaw the development and implementation of the County's nationally recognized open space program, as well as the policy development of and program implementation for planning, parks, water resources, and community development.

As President of Natural Lands Trust, she has been instrumental in creating conservation strategies for complex land transactions, including the acquisition of the 1,263-acre ChesLen Preserve in Newlin Township. In addition to providing strategic leadership and fundraising for a staff of 60, Molly oversees a network of 42 nature preserves and 361 conservation easements, totaling more than 44,000 acres. Molly has also served on a variety of boards, including the YMCA of Greater West Chester, the Chester County Art Association, and the Chester County United Way, among others.

Mr. Speaker, in light of her years of immeasurable contributions to the community and litany of outstanding accomplishments, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing Molly K. Morrison on the occasion of her being honored with The Greystone Society's Rebecca Lukens Award.

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### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

### HON. ALAN GRAYSON

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, March 11, 2014*

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF STATE REPRESENTATIVE KAREN CASTOR DENTEL

Mr. GRAYSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month, to recognize State Representative Karen Castor Dentel. Karen is a third-generation Floridian raised in Tampa. She earned a degree in Elementary Education from Vanderbilt University, a Masters from UNC Chapel Hill, and a PhD from the University of Florida.

Karen taught in a number of local elementary schools before her passion for teaching led her to become a voice for education in Tallahassee. When state policies regarding teacher evaluations and an increasing emphasis on testing began affecting her students, children, and colleagues, Karen sought election to the Florida House of Representatives in order to make an impact on education policies. In 2012 she was elected as State Representative for District 30 covering parts of Orange and Seminole counties.